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SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR NEA/ELA, AF/SPG

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SUBJECT: SUDANESE DUP LEADER MIRGHANI ADVOCATES FOR  
EGYPTIAN, US ROLES

Classified By: Minister Counselor for Economic and Political Affairs  
William R. Stewart for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

11. (C) Summary:

-- Muhammad Osman Al Mirghani, leader of the Sudanese Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) and the Khatmiyya Sufi sect visited Egypt to ask the Government of Egypt's assistance in the implementation of the June 2005 Cairo Agreement. He suggested a conference to recommit signatories to the agreement.

-- Mirghani Democratic Unionist Party may be unable to compete in upcoming elections because of financial constraints. However, Mirghani is not entertaining the idea of joining forces with other parties in order to participate in the elections.

-- It is time to make the Comprehensive Peace Agreement truly "comprehensive" by including parties other than the National Congress Party (NCP) and Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement (SPLM) in the accord.

-- The USG should help to bring all important parties to the table to discuss solutions to Sudan's problems and ensure that all parties can participate in "fair elections."

-- The DUP would like to improve its relations with the U.S. and Mirghani requested a meeting with S/E Gration.

12. (C) Comment: Mirghani spoke considerably about the past glory of his family and the DUP, but was he was unable to elucidate a future vision for Sudan. We are not convinced that Mirghani's insistence that past popularity of the DUP means that the party is a political force in Sudan today. The GOE is unlikely to act on Mirghani's request unless it gets the green light to do so from the Sudanese Government because Egypt does not want to upset Khartoum. End Comment.

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The Cairo Agreement and Egypt's Role  
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13. (C) Mirghani told us on June 23 that the GOS and other Sudanese parties had signed many accords and if implemented these would resolve all of Sudan's problems. He mentioned the agreements signed at Naivasha, Abuja, Cairo, Jeddah, Asmara as well as the Agreement on eastern Sudan. Mirghani said that he discussed with GOE and AL officials "ways to reactivate the unimplemented Cairo Agreement," which Mirghani and Sudanese VP Ali Osman Taha signed on June 18, 2005. During his visit, Mirghani met with Egyptian FM Ahmed Aboul Gheit, AL SYG Amre Moussa and Secretary General of the Egyptian National Democratic Party, Yusuf Wali. He stated that Egypt, as the sponsor of the agreement, had an obligation to the people of Sudan to promote implementation

of the accord. Mirghani opined that the agreement is the vehicle to resolving many of Sudan's problems such as the Darfur crisis, political polarization and the presence of armed militias because it calls for the creation of a national consensus. He stated that it would be a good idea to invite the signatories to a conference in Cairo to recommit them to the principles of the agreement.

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Sudan's Election Problems  
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¶4. (C) Mirghani expressed concern about the DUP's ability to participate in the upcoming 2010 elections. He said that both the NCP and SPLM have oil revenue money that will allow them to effectively compete in the elections. However, the DUP lack these financial resources and must rely on member contributions, which will limit, if not prohibit its ability to contest the elections. Mirghani told us he raised this issue with the Sudanese National Elections Commission. Mirghani opined that no action will be taken because the NCP and SPLM prefer this situation as it will limit competition from other political parties and will allow the two parties to protect their own interests. He also expressed concern that the requiring Sudanese citizens to pay 150 Sudanese pounds (USD 75) for a national ID in order to vote would further assure that only NCP and SPLM supporters would have a voice.

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DUP-Umma Party Relations  
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¶5. (C) Responding to a question about DUP plans to unite with other political parties for the elections, Mirghani told us that he met with Umma Party leader and former Sudanese PM Sadiq Al Mahdi during his trip to Cairo. He said that the two parties had agreed to form a committee to discuss potential solution to Sudan's problems. Mirghani said that the two parties would meet in early July in Khartoum. However, he said that the two parties would not form any type of coalition for upcoming elections.

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Need to Make the CPA Comprehensive  
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¶6. (C) Mirghani stated that the Comprehensive Peace Accord (CPA) changed Sudan for the better stopping a 22 year war, but he opined that it was now time to expand the agreement to make it comprehensive and not just a bilateral agreement between the NCP and SPLM. He said that the DUP should be included in the agreement because in every democratic election from 1956-1986, the party received the most votes and still has the support of the Sudanese people.

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The U.S. Role and Revitalizing the DUP-USG Relationship  
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¶7. (C) Mirghani criticized what he called the U.S's "singular support for the SPLM" to the exclusion of all other parties. He said that the USG should help to bring all important parties, including the DUP, to the table to discuss solutions to Sudan's problems and ensure that all parties can participate in "fair elections." He advocated that the U.S. send international monitors to limit fraud during the 2010 elections.

¶8. (C) Mirghani told us that in the past his and the DUP's relationship with the USG was good. He met with both former Secretary of State Colin Powell and then S/E for Sudan John Danforth during a visit to Washington in 2004. Mirghani stated that the USG now ignores him and he pointed out that

S/E Gration had not met with him during trips to Sudan, but had met with Hassan Al Turabi. He said that he would like to meet with S/E Gration.

SCOBAY